

## CLAIMS

1. An information management method comprising:  
invoking a client environment hosted on a client machine;  
5 registering the client environment with a discovery machine coupled  
to the client machine by a network;  
registering a server machine coupled to the network with the  
discovery machine;  
registering a host environment of the client environment on the server  
10 machine with the discovery machine upon an indication that the server  
machine has a communication for the client environment;  
establishing a direct link between the client machine and the server  
machine; and  
delivering the communication from the server machine to the client  
15 machine.

2. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
wherein the host environment of the client environment on the server  
machine maintains a logon service.

20 3. An information management method as recited in claim 2  
wherein a successful login via the logon service is dictated by a set of  
member credentials.

25 4. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
wherein the host environment of the client environment on the server  
machine determines access to a piece of information via a set of rules.

5. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
wherein the host environment of the client environment on the server  
machine maintains a list of available information.

5 6. An information management method as recited in claim 5  
wherein the host environment of the client environment on the server  
machine maintains a list of owners of the list of available information and a  
list of locations of available information.

10 7. An information management method as recited in claim 6  
wherein the host environment of the client environment on the server  
machine determines who to send an update of the piece of information by  
accessing the list of owners of the list of available information.

15 8. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
wherein the client environment hosted on the client machine maintains a list  
of rules that determines access to a piece of information via a set of rules.

9. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
20 wherein the discovery machine has an event handler that processes an event.

10. An information management method as recited in claim 9  
wherein the event handler processes at least one of a register event, an  
unregister event, a send/post event, a request event or a raise event.

25 11. An information management method as recited in claim 10  
wherein the register event invokes a request authentication process.

12. An information management method as recited in claim 10  
wherein the request event invokes a credential verification process.

13. An information management method as recited in claim 12  
5 wherein the credential verification process also includes a request handling  
process.

14. An information management method as recited in claim 13  
wherein the request handling process also includes a decrypted request  
10 handling process.

15. An information management method as recited in claim 14  
wherein the decrypted request handling process processes at least one of a  
retrieve all request type, a get count/list request type, a retrieve one(s)  
15 request type and a retrieve filtered request type.

16. An information management method as recited in claim 10  
wherein the unregister event invokes a request authentication process.

20 17. An information management method as recited in claim 10  
wherein the raise event invokes a second event handler.

25 18. An information management method as recited in claim 17  
wherein the second event handler processes at least one of a life expiration  
event, timeout event or an error event.

19. An information management method as recited in claim 1  
wherein the client machine and the server machine is comprised of a user  
interface services, a common services, an environment cache, an  
environment handle and a transport/communications.

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20. An information management method as recited in claim 19  
wherein the transport/communications processes event types via an event  
handler.

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21. An information management method as recited in claim 20  
wherein the event handler processes at least one of a go online type, a  
registration required type, an unregistration required type, a send/post type  
or an external event type.

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22. An information management method as recited in claim 19  
wherein the common services coordinates a selection of a proper  
environment.

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23. An information management system comprising:  
a plurality of client machines, each of which are coupled to a network,  
that host a plurality of client environments;  
a plurality of server machines, each of which are coupled to the  
network, that host a plurality of host client environments;  
a plurality of discovery machines, each of which are coupled to the  
network, which facilitates a connection between a single client environment  
and a single host client environment for the transfer of information.

24. An information management system as recited in claim 23  
wherein the plurality of host client environments have a logon service.

25. An information management system as recited in claim 24  
5 wherein a successful login via the logon service is dictated by a set of  
member credentials.

26. An information management system as recited in claim 23  
wherein the plurality of host client environments determines access to a  
10 piece of information via a set of rules.

27. An information management system as recited in claim 23  
wherein the plurality of host client environments maintain a list of available  
information.

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28. An information management system as recited in claim 27  
wherein the plurality of host client environments maintain a list of owners of  
the list of available information and a list of locations of available  
information.

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29. An information management system as recited in claim 28  
wherein the plurality of host client environments determine who to send an  
update of the piece of information by accessing the list of owners of the list  
of available information.

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30. An information management system as recited in claim 23  
wherein the single client environment maintains a list of rules that  
determines access to a piece of information via a set of rules.

5       31. An information management system as recited in claim 23  
wherein the plurality of discovery machines have an event handler that  
processes an event.

10      32. An information management system as recited in claim 31  
wherein the event handler processes at least one of a register event, an  
unregister event, a send/post event, a request event or a raise event.

15      33. An information management system as recited in claim 32  
wherein the register event invokes a request authentication process.

15      34. An information management system as recited in claim 32  
wherein the request event invokes a credential verification process.

20      35. An information management system as recited in claim 34  
wherein the credential verification process also includes a request handling  
process.

25      36. An information management system as recited in claim 35  
wherein the request handling process also includes a decrypted request  
handling process.

37. An information management system as recited in claim 36 wherein the decrypted request handling process processes at least one of a retrieve all request type, a get count/list request type, a retrieve one(s) request type and a retrieve filtered request type.

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38. An information management system as recited in claim 32 wherein the unregister event invokes a request authentication process.

39. An information management system as recited in claim 32  
10 wherein the raise event invokes a second event handler.

40. An information management system as recited in claim 39 wherein the second event handler processes at least one of a life expiration event, timeout event or an error event.

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41. An information management system as recited in claim 23 wherein the plurality of client machines and the plurality of server machines are comprised of a user interface services, a common services, an environment cache, an environment handle and a transport/communications.

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42. An information management system as recited in claim 41 wherein the transport/communications processes event types via an event handler.

25 43. An information management system as recited in claim 42 wherein the event handler processes at least one of a go online type, a

registration required type, an unregistration required type, a send/post type or an external event type.

44. An information management system as recited in claim 41
- 5 wherein the common services coordinates a selection of a proper environment.